

May 10, 1983

LB 451

which really is just an underwriting of the guarantees that supposedly exist in this Constitution and the laws of this state. He seems to be saying that those who are going to be subsidized through this bill ought to be allowed to discriminate. I think that is deplorable but not really unexpected. It is disappointing even though not unexpected and I hope you will retain Senator Beutler's very reasonable amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of this body, I sincerely regret my colleague's absence from the Legislature at one-thirty this afternoon when we took up LB 451 and the Beutler amendment because I know that had Senator Newell been here and heard the amendment discussed he would be an ardent supporter of the amendment but because he wasn't here, because the amendment got put on and got put on in a way that he seemed to think was sneakily and somewhat devious, he now wants to strip it away. As both Senator Chambers and Senator Beutler point out this is a very responsible, reasonable amendment for this bill to contain. All it says is this. Any organization, any corporation, any body taking advantage of tax incremental, not tax incremental financing but taking advantage of tax exempt bond financing for purposes of dealing with blighted properties must agree to the provisions of the state's law with respect to age discrimination, respect to race, sex and disablement discrimination and with respect to religious discrimination. Now I'll be truthful with you. I don't think that is too great a price for us to exact on anyone who is able to benefit from bonds that are tax exempt and that price very simply is we simply ask them to conform to our current and long-standing antidiscrimination policies. I, therefore, ask this body to reject Senator Newell's amendment and to continue along the course that we adopted forty-five minutes ago when Senator Newell was at lunch.